

Changing the Way the World Thinks About Energy



Michael Webber

Acting Director, Energy Institute Co-Director, Clean Energy Incubator Josey Centennial Professor in Energy Resources

CURRENT RESEARCH

The Webber Energy Group

The Webber Energy Group (WEG) is a research group at UT Austin, led by Dr. Michael Webber, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Deputy Director of the UT Austin Energy Institute, that analyzes energy and environmental problems at the intersection of engineering, science and public policy. Their research is divided into four areas: the energy-water nexus, energy systems modeling, alternative transportation fuels and the nexus of food, waste and energy.

The goal of the research in these areas is to get more people access to cleaner energy. Energy access will improve the lives of millions of people, and it needs to be clean so it avoids lasting environmental impacts. What makes WEG truly unique among their peers is their extensive and multifaceted outreach program. WEG doesn't just engage undergraduate, graduate, and professional academic researchers from a variety of engineering, policy, and scientific disciplines. The team also includes talented media and administrative professionals to help communicate their research to the public.

Dr. Webber and the WEG team believe that when engineers, scientists, and researchers fail to engage in the policy-making process (both private and public), energy policies won't be practical or effective. WEG wants to bridge the divide between policymakers and academics for issues related to energy and the environment, and improve the energy literacy of as many people as possible.

Dr. Webber and WEG have been very successful in their efforts to date. Entities such as the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Department of Energy, and non-governmental organizations, such as UNESCO, have featured Dr. Webber's research in their policy...

AFFILIATION



The University of Texas at Austin

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Mechanical Engineering (Minor, Electrical Engineering), 2001, Stanford University
- M.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1996, Stanford University
- B.S. with High Honors, Aerospace Engineering, 1995, The University of Texas at Austin
- B.A. with High Honors & Special Honors, Plan II Liberal Arts, 1995, The University of Texas at Austin

AWARDS

- Honorary Mechanical Engineer Award, Mechanical Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni, UT Austin (2018)
- Presidential Leadership Scholar (2018)
- Frank Kreith Energy Award, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (2015)

RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Clean Energy

FUNDING REQUEST

WEG needs \$250,000 for the six-part PBS special, "Power Trip: The Story of Energy." With your help, this important work could be released to the public as early as 2019.

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